

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

RESOLUTION

October 14, 2003

WHEREAS, the California Environmental Protection Agency (Agency) Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (IWG) – consisting of the Secretary of the Environmental Protection Agency (Secretary), the Chairpersons of the California Air Resources Board, the State Water Resources Control Board and the California Integrated Waste Management Board, and the Directors of the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, and the Department of Pesticide Regulation, and the Director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research – was established by Public Resources Code section 71113 and convened by the Secretary for the purpose of developing an environmental justice strategy for the Agency;

WHEREAS, the California Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (Committee) consisting of 17 members representing the perspectives of land use planning agencies, air pollution control districts, Certified Unified Program Agencies, environmental organizations, large and small businesses, community organizations, federally recognized Indian tribes and environmental justice organizations was established by Public Resources Code section 71114 and appointed by the Secretary for the purpose of advising the IWG concerning the development of the Agency Environmental Justice Strategy;

WHEREAS, the Committee has conducted an extensive process to solicit and consider public input into its recommendations and advice to the IWG concerning the issues to be considered, goals to be set and actions to be taken concerning environmental justice and the development of the Intra-Agency strategy, and has developed and presented on October 1, 2003 a comprehensive Report and Recommendations to the IWG;

WHEREAS, the members of the IWG have reviewed the Committee Report and Recommendations, and having discussed them at an open and public meeting and following hearing of public comment and input on October 14, 2003, accepts the Report

and Recommendations from the Committee and fully supports the concepts included in the four goal statements in the report:

1. Ensure meaningful public participation and promote community capacity building to allow communities to be effective participants in decision-making processes.
2. Integrate environmental justice into the development, adoption, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.
3. Improve research and data collection to promote and address environmental justice related to the health and environment of communities of color and low-income populations.
4. Ensure effective cross-media coordination and accountability in addressing environmental justice issues.

WHEREAS, the IWG agrees with the concepts contained in the various recommendations included in the Committee's report and intends, within its legal authority to do so and as resources allow, to implement those recommendations the Agency and its BDO's determine to be reasonable and feasible;

WHEREAS, the IWG finds that:

The Committee Report and Recommendations is substantially consistent with the requirements of Public Resources Code section 71113(b) that requires the IWG, with the help of the Committee to:

- (1) Examine existing data and studies on environmental justice, and consult with state, federal, local agencies, and affected communities.
- (2) Recommend criteria to the Secretary for Environmental Protection for identifying and addressing any gaps in existing programs, policies, or activities that may impede the achievement of environmental justice.
- (3) Recommend procedures and provide guidance to the California Environmental Protection Agency for the coordination and implementation of intra-agency environmental justice strategies.
- (4) Recommend procedures for collecting, maintaining, analyzing, and coordinating information relating to an environmental justice strategy.
- (5) Recommend procedures to ensure that public documents, notices, and public hearings relating to human health or the environment are concise, understandable, and readily accessible to the public. The recommendation shall include guidance for determining when it is appropriate for the California Environmental Protection Agency to translate crucial public documents, notices, and hearings relating to human health or the environment for limited-English-speaking populations.

- (6) Hold public meetings to receive and respond to public comments regarding recommendations required pursuant to this section, prior to the finalization of the recommendations. The California Environmental Protection Agency shall provide public notice of the availability of draft recommendations at least one month prior to the public meetings.
- (7) Make recommendations on other matters needed to assist the agency in developing an intra-agency environmental justice strategy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, the IWG endorses the Committee Report and agrees to use the goals and recommendations contained in it to provide the structure for development of the Intra-Agency Environmental Justice Strategy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the IWG will work with the Committee to develop the Strategy document by not later than December 31, 2003, including implementation plans that set out the steps the Agency, each BDO and OPR will individually and collectively, as appropriate, take to begin working toward achievement of the goals set out in the Report.

The undersigned Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the Interagency Working Group held in Sacramento, California on October 14, 2003.

Winston H. Hickox

Winston H. Hickox
Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency &
Chair, Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice

Tal Farley

Tal Farley
Interim Director, Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Alan Lloyd

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